AT CHRISTMAS

Joy to the World... Let every heart rejoice . . . for Christ is born in Bethlehem and the glory of His message shines forever, shines anew. Even as shepherds and wise men came to worship and be glad, so may each of us return in spirit to the sacred manger, there to find the peace and promise, the hope and happiness of the first Christmas. May the miracle of His birth and the wonder of His presence ever be our blessing and inspiration. And may this Christmas truly be, for you and yours, a season rich in joy and deep contentment.

To our Many Valued Friends, We Extend a Heartfelt "Thank You."

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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX

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1982, as reported in the Times-Virginian

The year in review

The year 1982 has been one marked by a wide variety of happenings in Appomattox County, ranging from weather extremes to political controversies.

Following are some highlights of the year 1982 in Appomattox County, gleaned from the pages of the **Times-Virginian**

January

When the new year rolled around, weather was often in the news, with greater-than-normal amounts of precipitation, ranging from rain to glaze ice, falling on Appomattox County.

In the Jan. 13 issue, readers learned that J. Franklin Vaughan had been elected chairman of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors, and that Town Manager Bill Britton had been named regional vice president of the Virginia Civil Defense Association.

Appomattox got a new extension agent, Ocie Mack, in January, and the county's first baby of 1982, Mary Nicole Doss, was born to Lynn Doss on Jan. 4.

The Jan. 20 issue brought news of the school board's decision to close Pamplin Elementary School at the end of the school year, and a story about a Spout Spring man, 63-year-old Russell Nimblett, who died of exposure to the extreme low temperatures which plagued the area during January.

Readers also learned that Dan and Edna Carson of Appomattox had been appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention to serve as missionaries in Kenya, Africa.

Febraury

The Feb. 4 issue carried a story on the coupon-collecting of Robin Britton, wife of Town Manager Bill Britton. The following week's paper related the account of a fatal shooting, in which Thurman Eugene Jones was killed after an argument over a spilled load of pulp wood.

A proposed ordinance which would regulate firearms and hunting in Appomattox met with stiff opposition by a group of hunters, according to a story in the Feb. 18 issue about the month's Board of Supervisors meeting. That issue also carried a story on Wanda Gaila Moore, "Miss Appomattox, 1977," who had just completed training with the Virginia State Police, one of only two women in the state to do so.

Spout Spring's new postmaster, Edward G. Hamner, was featured in an article in the Feb. 25 issue of the paper.

March

Efforts to revive the Appomattox County Chamber of Commerce were described in the March 4 issue of the paper. That issue also told of two serious fires – one which severely damaged the Top Treat Restaurant, and one which did heavy damage to the home of Faye Stephenson. Both fires started in the kitchens of the buildings.

Fire was in the news again in the March 11 issue, which carried a story on the blaze which destroyed the Amelia Dress Company's Pamplin garment factory, that town's only industry. That issue also told of Raider varsity basketball coach Coty Dickerson's being named Seminole District Coach of the Year.

In the March 18 issue, readers learned that Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr., had been named to the state Water Control Board, and that a long-standing Appomattox business, Elliott's Florist, had been sold by Francis and Mildred Elliott to brothers Calvin and Marvin Mitchell.

The final issue of March described the community effort in Pamplin to replace that town's lost industry, the garment factory. The March 25 issue also told of Appomattox Mayor Ronald C. Spiggle's appointment to the state Board of Transportation Safety, and the paper carried a story on the growing ranks of the county's rejuvenated Chamber of Commerce, under the direction of President Jim Nolen.

April

The April 1 issue of the **Times-Virginian** brought the sad news that Herbert Pulliam, community leader, had passed away March 27 at the age of 86. The following week, readers learned that Virginia Babcock of Appomattox had been named to the state Commission of Black Grants. That issue also carried a photograph of the Promise Land Baptist Church, which lost its roof in the high spring winds prevalent at that time.

Readers learned in the April 15 issue that the historical park was planning an improved water system for protection of the park buildings. The following week's paper carried a story on the county supervisors' request for nominations for persons to fill the school board seat of Dr. A.A. Fratrick, which would expire June 30.

The April 22 issue also carried a story about a jailbreak attempt which was foiled when Sheriff Gene Richardson shot the fleeing inmate in the leg.

April 29's paper told of the ever-increasing membership of the county Chamber of Commerce, and the election of Bob Jamerson as new president of the Appomattox County Historical Society.

May

The death of Walter Harvey Reed, a Lynchburg man who died in a single-car accident on Route 24, was reported in the May 6 issue of the **Times-Virginian**. That issue also told of the final plans for the Virginia Farm Management Tour, scheduled for July 17 in Appomattox County.

The Appomattox cable television system, which at times seemed like an albatross around the town's neck, was sold to Bahakel Broadcasting, a communications firm with numerous television, radio and cable-TV systems, accordint to a story in the May 13 issue. That issue also recounted the light voter turnouts in the uncontested town elections of Pamplin and Appomattox.

In the May 20 issue, readers learned that five persons had been nominated for consideration for appointment to the county school board: Dr. A.A. Fratrick, Bernet Revely, Henrietta P. Johnson, Lorene L. Wenning and John T. Williams. That issue also noted that the county's budget had been set at $7.8 million for the coming fiscal year.

The final issue of May carried a story on groundbreaking ceremonies for improvements to the town park, and described "Appomattox Day," where county athletes were honored before and during a Lynchburg Mets game at Lynchburg City Stadium.

June

Graduation activities for the class of 1982 at Appomattox County High School dominated much of the front pages of the June 3 and 10 issues. In the June 17 issue, readers learned that the Board of Supervisors had added an at-large seat to the county school board, and appointed Henrietta P. Johnson to fill that seat. A.A. Fratrick was re-appointed to his seat on the board, as well.

The June 24 issue of the paper included coverage of ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the new swimming pool at the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, and included a story about state Attorney General Gerald Baliles' visit to Appomattox to discuss his ideas on crime prevention.

July

Membership in the county's Chamber of Commerce had reached an all-time high in June, according to a story published July 1. That paper also told of installation of a new satellite-reception dish to improve signal reception for Appomattox Cable Television subscribers.

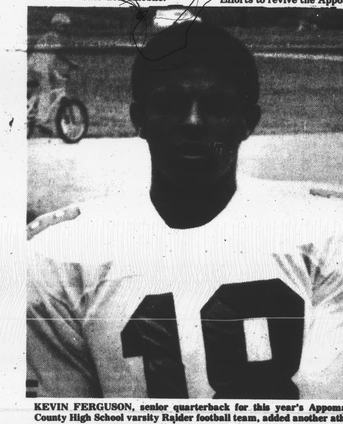
Appomattox Countains donated more than $1,500 to the fight against Muscular Dystrophy, according to the Sept. 9 paper. The following week's edition featured a story about the Patrick Henry Boy's Plantation's exploring the idea of locating a satellite home in Appomattox County. That paper also told of a group of local merchants who, working through VPI Extension Agent Shirley Walton, are seeking to develop the Appomattox Railroad Depot into a downtown mini-mall.

Readers were saddened by the news in the Sept. 23 issue that the Rev. R. Q. Lawing, leader of the county's black community, had died at age 72. Another story on that issue's front page told of the tragic death of James A. Woody, an 18-year-old ACHS senior who died in an automobile accident.

[Continued on page 5]

GINNY SWEET, eight-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sweet of Appomattox County, was the lucky winner of the 1983 Chevrolet Chevette awarded last week in a contest to raise funds for the new Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center swimming pool. More than 21,000 tickets went out during the contest, including almost 3,000 in Appomattox County alone. Ginny is shown above with Dr. Wayne Compton of the Holiday Lake 4-H facility, after her winning ticket was drawn. (Photo by Jim Smith)

Happy Winner



KEVIN FERGUSON, senior quarterback for this year's Appomattox County High School varsity Raider football team, added another athletic honor to his growing collection this week. He was named to the Orlando, Fla., Sentinel Star newspaper's All-South Scholastic Football Team. Ferguson, who passed for 1,306 yards and 12 touchdowns while leading the Raiders to the Seminole District title, is also a member of the All-District and All-Region squads.

Bloodmobile visit planned

The Bloodmobile will visit Appomattox on Thursday, December 30 from 12 noon until 6 p.m. at Liberty Baptist Church.

The quota for this visit is 150 units of blood.

"The need for blood is great," said Mrs. Alice C. Marsin, Blood Services Chairman for Appomattox County," and we urge all regular donors and any prospective new donors to make plans to donate a unit of blood at this visit of the Bloodmobile."

First baby contest set

Once again this year, the **Times-Virginian** and other area businesses are sponsoring a "First Baby of the Year" contest.

The first Appomattox County baby of 1983 and his or her parent will be treated to a variety of prizes offered in the contest by area merchants.

To be eligible, a baby and his or her parents must be residents of Appomattox County.

Full details about the contest's prizes and rules can be found on the contest page on page 7 inside.

Office to close Friday

The **Times-Virginian** newspaper office will be closed this Friday, Dec. 31, in observance of the New Year's holiday.

The office will re-open Monday morning for regular business hours at 8:30 a.m.

The staff of the **Times-Virginian** wishes its readers, advertisers and other friends a Happy New Year.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Greetings. All those things you planned to do in '82, What's your score? Only a few hours remaining, and then it will be Welcome '83. Like most years, '82 had its disappointments and leaves us with a lot of unfinished business. But it had its big moments, too, and they sort of balance off. I'd vote for more pluses than minuses.

• • •

A New Year challenges us to make Resolutions, whether we keep them or not. I wrote down a few, such as: Be grateful and humble, try to cooperate with others, to help keep Appomattox a Growing Town, to keep my '63 car going, to have a better garden, to feed the birds, to read more good books, to keep old friends and make new ones. Everyone might add a few personal resolutions and goals for the New Year, revise them periodically and give the best possible effort.

• • •

Kevin Ferguson, ACHS football star, continues to bring honors to his school and county. A Florida daily paper has named an All-South football team for high school and prep schools. Guess who's at quarterback - Kevin Ferguson. Certainly one of the top honors ever won by an Appomattox athlete. Ferguson also made the All-State Group AA team.

• • •

A change in the weather situation is due. Had my garden spot been plowed, I would have planted garden peas on Christmas Day. Over twenty degrees warmer than Christmas Day '81.

Shearer and Catherine Robertson reported they had forsythia in bloom!

• • •

Christmas gatherings were featured by eating a lot of good food. I nibble a lot at simple foods, but gourmets and specialists use this season to display fabulous cousine. I copied from an advertisement the names of foods, probably Italian, absolutely unknown to me: Langostinos, baked Alaska, stuffed grape leaves, spanokopita, mousaki, fettuccine, spumante and pozole. Pass the biscuits and butter'em while they're hot.

• • •

A bee hive has its Queen, but who is King? As for this section of Virginia, I nominate G. C. Maxwell, out from Pamplin. He has well over 100 hives of bees and says this has been a good year. Take a bow, my friend.

• • •

For the record: On Christmas Day at 2 P.M. the outside temperature was 62 on Martha Street.

• • •

Thanks to the Richard Smiths for bringing me copies of the Page News and Courier, Luray, Va.

• • •

Overheard on TV... An announcer on a network was telling us about the University of Virginia basketball team's recent trip to Japan, Hawaii, etc. and was remarking how far it was, and I heard him say, "Why it is 5,000 miles from Appomattox to Hawaii."

• • •

Thanks for reading and seeya around, clear the tables we're '83 bound.

Martin retires

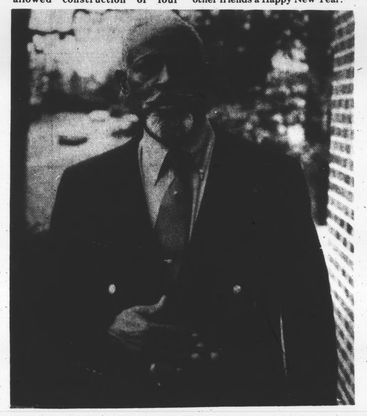
Dr. George A. Martin, Sr., has resigned as president of the Appomattox Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., effective January 1, 1983. He cites health problems as his reason for resignation, but plans to continue his membership in the organization and will help whenever needed with the work of the group.

A native of Savannah, Ga., Martin has lived in Appomattox County for the past nine years, moving here following retirement from his job with the City of New York.

Martin, a graduate of Virginia Seminary and College, received the Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree in 1980 for Meritorious Services Rendered.

While in New York City, Martin taught classes in English and a class in Naturalization to foreign-born individuals, helping to prepare them in becoming United States citizens.

Dr. and Mrs. Martin are the parents of two sons, George A. Martin, Jr., a New York City Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Parking Violations; and William T. Martin, an attorney in private practice in New York City.



Dr. George A. Martin, Sr.